

REMARKS

In response to the above Office Action, claims 1-12 have been cancelled and replaced by new claims 13-34 to place the claims in more traditional U.S. format. New claims 13-23 are method claims based on original claims 1-10 and 12, respectively, and new claims 24-34 are apparatus claims based on original claims 1-10 and 12, respectively. Thus support for all of the claims can be found in the original claims.

Main claim 13, relates to a method for an animal breeder to register an animal with a management organization, which method enables individual identification of an animal by an identifier printed or recorded in some form or another with an animal registration number belonging to the management organization, said method comprising

obtaining an identifier from a management organization that includes an animal registration number,

reporting the animal registration number included in the identifier to the management organization together with individual information unique to the animal to be registered,

registering the reported animal registration number and the individual information in a database of the management organization, and

issuing an animal registration certificate by the management organization to the animal breeder that links the animal registration number and the individual information.

Main claim 24 relates to an animal registration management system for registering an animal with a management organization, which system enables individual identification of an animal by an identifier printed or recorded in some form or another with an animal registration number belonging to the management organization, said system comprising

means for an animal breeder to obtain an identifier from a management organization that includes an animal identification number,

means for reporting the animal registration number included in the identifier to the management organization together with individual information unique to the animal to be registered,

means for registering the reported animal registration number and the individual information in a database of the management organization, and

means for issuing an animal registration certificate by the management organization that links the animal registration number and the individual information.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) for being anticipated by Mori et al., hereafter Mori, and claims 7, 8, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over Mori. Reconsideration of the rejections in light of the new claims and the following is requested.

The invention disclosed in Mori relates to an animal body identifying device that includes:

- (1) a camera for photographing an eye of an animal;
- (2) a body data computer for processing image data acquired by the camera;
- (3) a body data registry for pre-storing a plurality of body data; and
- (4) a body data collator for comparing the stored data and the image data acquired by the camera and identifying whether or not the photographed animal is a registered animal.

It also relates to an animal body identifying system including:

(1) a body data capturing device for photographing an eye of an animal and capturing body data; and

(2) a body data collating device for collating body data obtained from the body data capturing device and pre-registered body data and determining whether or not the photographed animal is a registered animal.

Thus, the device and system disclosed in Mori are only for identifying whether or not the photographed animal is a pre-registered animal by comparing photographed image data and pre-stored animal body data. Mori teaches that the animal body data can be, for example, iris data.

On the other hand, the present invention is not a device or a system which identifies a photographed animal by comparing the photographed image data and pre-stored animal body data, but is an animal registration system and method which identifies an animal by an identifier belonging to a predetermined management organization, for example, a registration management center or an agricultural cooperative organization. The identifier is, for example, an ear tag attached to the ear of the animal, and an animal registration number managed by the management organization is printed or recorded thereon.

More specifically, it is not seen where Mori teaches, with reference, for example, to method claim 13, the step of an animal breeder first obtaining "an identifier from a management organization that includes an animal registration number" or thereafter "reporting the animal registration number included in the identifier to the management organization together with individual information unique to the animal."

In Mori, individual information unique to an animal may be registered in a body data registry of a management organization, which information may be subsequently used to identify an animal, but no identifier, such as an ear tag that includes an animal registration number printed or recorded thereon is first obtained from the organization.

Mori may also provide a separate card 48 containing the body data and a registration number, but even if this could be considered an “identifier,” it is used by the organization to look up animals or specific persons. See column 15, last line to column 16, line 2. It is not, as best can be determined, an identifier sent to the animal breeder that contains an animal identification number.

As noted above in the present invention, unique animal registration numbers are issued first and the identifiers on which one of the issued registration numbers is printed are next produced before the registration of the animals. In contrast, in Mori, animal registration numbers are issued after the registration of the animals.

It is submitted that these differences are significant because Mori’s system is basically an animal identifying system whereas applicant’s is an animal registration system.

Moreover, it is not seen where the organization issues an animal registration certificate to the animal breeder “that links the animal registration number and the individual information.”

For these reasons, it is not believed that main method claim 13 or its corresponding apparatus claim 24 can be considered anticipated by Mori.

Mori also does not disclose the step of dependent claim 14, former claim 2, or the corresponding means of claim 25, of reporting the animal registration number with

the individual information unique to the animal to the management organization on an animal registration application form attached to said identifier" previously obtained from the management organization by the breeder. Thus it is believed these claims are also not anticipated by Mori for this additional reason.

In any event, claims 14-23 and 25-34 are all dependent on either claim 13 or 24, so they should not be considered anticipated by Mori for at least the same reasons claims 13 and 24 are not anticipated by this reference.

The subject matter of claims 7, 8, and 12 (now method claims 19, 20, and 23 and apparatus claims 30, 31, and 34) may be obvious variants for use in the device and system of Mori, but they all depend from either claim 13 or 24, the subject matter of which is not taught by Mori, so they should not be considered obvious in view of this reference.

Withdrawal of Mori as a ground of rejection of the claims under §102 or §103 and their allowance is therefore requested.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 2, 2004

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